

material and would tempt one to describe it as new were it not for the similarity of microscopic details and for the fact that two large pieces (one 11 cm.) collected at Cuttyhunk Island by Miss Mary L. Rollins were very soft. These had a main axis to 2 mm. diameter, the longest lateral branch was 4.5 cm., and one piece bore crozier tips to 3 mm. across their curve. The ultimate ramuli were soft and somewhat penicillate-tufted, measuring 3 mm. long. These plants were apparently sterile. *Asparagopsis* was also secured in considerable quantities at Black Rock near New Bedford. In addition to the drifted specimens it was found sparsely in a dwarfed condition upon *Chondrus* within reach by wading along the edge of the islet. This species is not abundantly represented in the algal herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden, and since a microscopical study of the specimens there failed to give definite characters to separate the present material it seems best to report it under the name applied to the European plant. The $\frac{5}{6}$ -size illustration (Plate 176) is of portions of a cystocarpic plant of moderately stiff habit and the kind most generally secured. Two crozier-tips, shrunken in drying, are marked with arrows in the lower row of specimens.—WM. R. TAYLOR.

CAREX MITCHELLIANA AND OTHER RARE PLANTS NEAR COHASSET, MASSACHUSETTS.—Two or three miles south of Cohasset is the little village of Beechwood. In this vicinity are extensive areas of deep woods, where beech is noticeably frequent, and *Ilex opaca* reaches a trunk diameter exceeding six inches. In the midst of them are small cedar swamps, some at least unmarked on the topographic survey maps. On July 22nd one of these small swamps and its surroundings were carefully investigated. The border of the swamp was broken by little rocky cliffs. In the cooler hollows hemlocks and yellow birch grew with *Ilex opaca* and *Ilex glabra*. We were interested to find *Lycopodium clavatum* and *L. lucidulum*, and were astonished to stumble upon an excellent station of *Lycopodium annotinum*, previously known in the local flora only from points north and west of Boston. In several wet little hollows *Corallorhiza trifrida* was frequent, and growing with it in sphagnum were rather small specimens of *Botrychium ramosum*, and some minute little ferns which on the basis of the size and shape of the sterile frond would have to be called *B. simplex*, an association which occurs with

suspicious frequency. In the swamp itself a single plant of the locally very rare *Malaxis unifolia* was found in the first five minutes, an hour's search yielding only two more.

But the best find was a large clump of a *Carex* obviously close to *C. crinita*, but suspiciously different, which proves on critical examination to be *Carex Mitchelliana* M. A. Curtis. Weatherby (RHODORA, 1923, p. 17) showed that this little known species, described from South Carolina, ranged north along the coastal plain to New Jersey and Cape Cod. A study of the increased material now in the Gray Herbarium enables us to add a little to his excellent critique. The smooth, unconstricted achene is, of course, the most important technical character. The nervation of the perigynia is, however, a tendency rather than an absolute character, and is well developed only in overripe examples. There are three other characters in the spike, which aid readily in field recognition. First the scales are shorter and project less beyond the perigynia than in either *Carex crinita* or *C. gynandra*, giving the spike a far less bristly appearance. The greatest care must be used here in correctly estimating the maturity of the spike, as immature perigynia of *C. Mitchelliana* are greatly exceeded by their subtending scales. The same caution must be used with the second character, which is the relatively thicker spike in *C. Mitchelliana*. The color of a fully ripe spike is grayish green, the scales remaining hyaline, while spikes of fully mature *C. crinita* or *gynandra* are, as is well known, yellowish, brownish, or even rusty, after the perigynia have begun to fall. To sum up, mature plants of *Carex Mitchelliana* are readily recognizable in the field, but immature specimens, whether in the field or herbarium, would require a most critical examination to be determined correctly.

The occurrence of *Carex Mitchelliana* near Cohasset constitutes a northward extension of its range, and adds a new species to the Flora of the Boston District.—LUDLOW GRISCOM and H. K. SVENSON, Cambridge, Massachusetts.